and put to some modern use. But the eight others which we visited, were in most cases partly or wholly filled with débris which had slowly accumulated in them. In size they differed greatly from one another, several of them were so small that they could not have served for habitations. When they occurred on the side hill they were covered with earth removed from the immediate vicinity. In the roofs of two of them we measured stones which were 9x7x3 and 10x5x4 feet respectively. In all, Mr. Pettee had found twenty of these structures in the immediate vicinity. It is hoped that more careful exploration will be made of those which are filled with débris. The present inhabitants have no knowledge of their origin, and they are entirely out of analogy with any structures of recent times.

In a communication made to the Japanese Asiatic Society of London, a few years ago (the date of which I do not remember) the writer spoke of having noted about four hundred such structures in different parts of the Empire, all substantially alike, but with minor modifications in shape, only a small portion of them having the wall of the entrance and the room flush on one side, like the one here observed. The few ornaments found in them were unlike anything of present Japanese manufacture.

At Yokohama, also, I was taken by Rev. Henry Loomis to see various rooms artificially excavated in the soft rock of the region which were evidently of ancient origin, as evinced by the character of the tool marks upon them. But more interesting still were two shell heaps, about one hundred and fifty feet above the bay, in which not only had most of the shells been artificially opened to procure the food, but there were numerous pieces of pottery of antique character. The situation of these was much the same as of those described by Professor Morse near Tokio.

The universality of such indications of a primitive culture preceding that of existing civilizations in Japanese as well as in Europe and America is certainly interesting and significant. Much further light is still in store from their systematic study.

G. FREDERICK WRIGHT.

NAGASAKI, JAPAN, April 23, 1900.

SEALS IN THE AMAZON DRAINAGE.

ON September 20, 1899, William J. Gerhard, a field entomologist, observed several seals in a stream among the headwaters of the Madiera river, in Bolivia. The exact locality was a small tributary of the Rio Secure, whose waters find their way into the Madiera by way of the Mamore river. From the position assumed by the seals, as described by Mr. Gerhard, it is evident they were members of the Otaridæ, and most probably either *Otaria jubata* or *Arctocephalus australis*.

This is, I believe, the first notice of any seal from the Amazon system.

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THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESSES OF METEOROLOGY AND AËRONAUTICS AT PARIS.

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: As some of your readers may be planning to attend the International Congresses of Meteorology and Aëronautics this summer, at Paris, it seems proper for the official delegate of the United States to call attention to an error in the dates announced in SCIENCE of June 1st. These congresses will not meet during July but during September, the Meteorological Congress being held between the tenth and the sixteenth of that month and the Aëronautical Congress, fixed for nearly the same time on account of the allied interests, having its sessions from the fifteenth to the twentieth of September.

The mistake, which was made also by your English contemporary, *Nature*, probably arose from the fact that when the list of the various congresses was issued several months since, the dates of the two congresses in question had not been determined; nevertheless the blanks left in the date column were assumed to mean that each of these congresses coincided with the one immediately preceding it in alphabetical order.

A. LAWRENCE ROTCH.

BLUE HILL METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATORY.
June 7, 1900.

THE NAME OF THE COCHINEAL.

I HAVE elsewhere (*Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci.*, Phila., 1899, p. 261) shown that the *Coccus cacti*,